

Issue NE-CW1403, released April 7, 2003, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov), Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

**GENERAL:** For the week ending April 6, 2003, fieldwork was active as producers prepared for spring planting, according to the USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Moisture, mostly in the form of snow, was received late in the week. This improved topsoil moisture supplies which are now a little better than a year ago. However, subsoil moisture supplies are beginning the crop year at 85 percent short and very short, unchanged from last fall. Planting of oats and sugar beets were underway. Producer activities also included fertilizer applications and livestock care.

This release is based on reports and data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. Current county specific comments plus current and historic PDF files of Weather and Crop reports can be found at: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts\\_cur.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm)

**WEATHER:** Temperatures averaged above normals for the week and ranged from near normals to four

degrees above normals. Precipitation was statewide but less than a tenth of an inch fell in the North Central and Northeast districts. All other districts averaged from a quarter to half an inch.

**CROPS:** Wheat condition improved slightly and rated 6 percent very poor, 18 poor, 42 fair, 33 good, and 1 excellent. These ratings are similar to previous year.

Oat seedings progressed to 28 percent complete and compared to 36 last year and 34 average.

Sugarbeet planting had begun in the Panhandle and Southwest districts.

**LIVESTOCK:** Cattle and calves condition rated 3 percent poor, 29 fair, 62 good, and 6 excellent. Calving progressed to 82 percent complete with calf losses mostly average to below average. Available topsoil moisture has helped with pasture “green up”, but more rainfall is needed to replenish subsoil moisture reserves for sustained growth.

Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of April 6, 2003

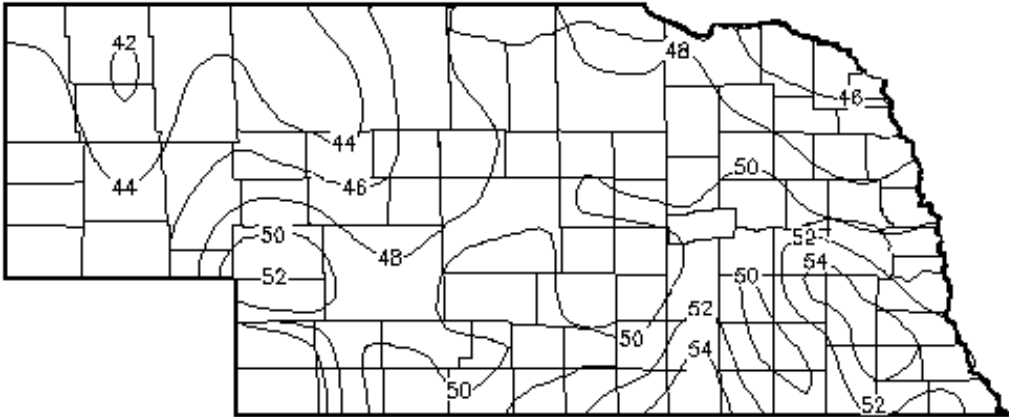
Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Oats Planted	13	36	14	39	49	39	76	40	28	10	36	34
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	5.8	5.2	4.7	6.4	5.2	6.1	6.6	5.7	5.6		6.3	4.4
Topsoil Moisture - % Very short	0	10	21	23	8	55	28	36	19		29	12
- % Short	32	30	32	52	37	18	40	45	34		30	23
- % Adequate	68	60	47	12	54	27	32	19	45		41	56
- % Surplus	0	0	0	13	1	0	0	0	2		0	9
Subsoil Moisture - % Very Short	38	33	32	38	19	80	64	47	43		20	14
- % Short	48	39	52	55	54	18	30	50	42		44	30
- % Adequate	14	28	16	7	27	2	6	3	15		36	53
- % Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	3

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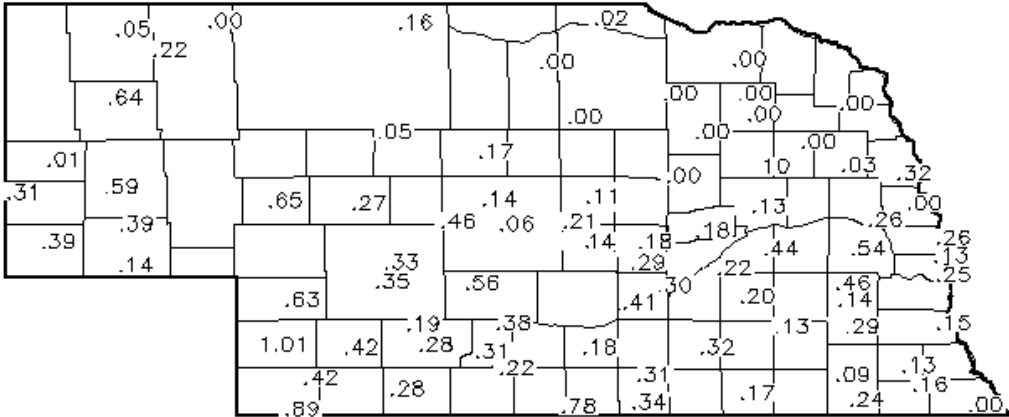
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Seven Day Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil



Source: High Plains Regional Climate Centers Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN).

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending April 6, 2003



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - April 6, 2003

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.30	.03	.04	.24	.27	.42	.25	.18
Total since April 1	.30	.03	.04	.24	.27	.42	.25	.18
Normal since April 1	.33	.40	.47	.45	.52	.35	.38	.52
Total as % of normal	91%	7%	7%	52%	51%	120%	67%	36%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday April 6, 2003

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Average	Departure
		High	Low		
NW	Alliance	79	21	43	1
	Scottsbluff	79	25	44	2
	Sidney	79	22	44	1
NC	Ainsworth	84	27	44	1
	Arthur	81	21	46	2
	O'Neill	85	27	45	0
NE	Concord	84	22	45	0
	Elgin	86	24	45	0
	West Point	88	25	46	0
C	Grand Island	88	23	47	1
	Lexington	85	22	47	1
	Ord	87	26	46	1
EC	Lincoln	90	28	51	4
	Central City	89	25	48	2
	Mead	90	25	49	2
SW	Champion	83	23	47	2
	North Platte	84	20	46	2
	Curtis	86	23	49	4
SC	Arapahoe	81	20	44	0
	Minden	87	21	47	2
	Red Cloud	87	23	49	3
SE	Beatrice	87	22	49	2
	Clay Center	88	22	47	1
	Nemaha	90	28	53	4

Source: High Plains Climate Center.